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WASHINGTON'S NOTE BOOK

SELECTIONS FROM A NEWLY-DISCOVERED MANUSCRIPT
WRITTEN BY HIM WHILE A VIRGINIA
COLONEL, IN 1757

EDITED BY
VICTOR HUGO PALTSITS
KEEPER OF MANUSCRIPTS

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WASHINGTON'S NOTE BOOK

SELECTIONS FROM A NEWLY-DISCOVERED MANUSCRIPT WRITTEN
BY HIM WHILE A VIRGINIA COLONEL, IN 1757

EDITED BY VICTOR HUGO PALTSITS
Keeper of Manuscripts

THIS small manuscript note book measures $7\frac{1}{2}$ by $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches, has 54 written pages and 17 blank leaves. Ten of the written pages are not in Washington's hand and consist of "A Roll of the Artificers employed on the Works at Winchester, under the Command of Capt. William Peachy, wth an Acco^t of their lost Time" (9 p.), and "A List of men draughted from the Artificers to do Garrison Duty for a Time" (1 p.). The rest of the writing in the note book is in Washington's style of handwriting employed for several years in the fifties and sixties, quite different from his earlier and youthful hand, and differing distinctly from his well-known handwriting of the period of the American Revolution and the Presidency. This note book was offered to The New York Public Library for the Virginia military roster above named and no relationship to Washington was then known or surmised. The discovery was made by me when studying certain of the written memoranda for correspondence, which showed unmistakably that they were the ideas set down by Washington before he wrote his letters to Governor Dinwiddie, the Speaker of the House of Burgesses of Virginia, Colonel Stanwix, and others. Conclusive identification was effected by a comparison of the writing in the note book with a photographed page (1755) from Washington's early letter books in the Library of Congress and has since been confirmed *de visu* by Mr. Worthington C. Ford, our greatest Washington specialist.

This note book was used by Washington in 1757 when raising the two Virginia regiments during the last of the intercolonial wars with the French of Canada, and part of it contains his memoranda for correspondence while at Fort Stanwix. Several pages are filled with minute descriptions of the pedigrees, brands, and marks of his military wagon horses, named Nelly,

Jolly, Ball, Jack, Rock, Woodfin, Prince, Buck, Diamond, Crab, etc. The following selections from the note book speak for themselves:

SPECIMENS OF CORRESPONDENCE NOTES IN DIARY FORM

8 June 1757. Get the Prices of all the Soldiers Cloth^s from Col^o Carlyle — with a reasonable advance; and give it to each Captain with Orders to examine his Company's necessary Roll once a Week (every Saturd^y) with^t Fail and to make stopages for every thing difficient besides punishing the Soldiers for neglect of Duty this to be done before they are paid —

Order also that each Sergeant of a Com^y have a distinct Squad to take care of & to see that they always have their Cloth^s & accoutrements in good Order —

Ditto 8th

Write the Governor [Dinwiddie] that Captⁿ Paris has got a Commission in the Maryland Force — That Gov^r Denny has sent Invitations to the Cherokees to treat with him at Fort Loudoun in his Gov^t &

That I am apprehensive the diff^t Colonies striving against each other must be bad

That I have removed Captⁿ Stewart & Gists Company to this place & give him my reasons for doing it.

To desire that he will direct me concerning receiving the Drafts.

And in what manner the Companys of Rangers are to be Cloath^d, Paid & Com^d.

Also know how far and in what points I am to pay Obedience to the Orders of Col^o Stanwix & if it should so happen that I receive Orders from himself [Gov. Dinwiddie] & Col^o Stanwix differing (which is not unlikely) whose Orders I am to Obey.

Inform that Maj^r Lewis is come in inclose a Copy of his Letter —

Also that Lieut^t Williams & Ensign Dean have resign^d their Commissions

Send down the names of all the Subaltern Officers & Seniority — and advice that the reduced Capt^{ns} who may accept of Lieut^{ys} have their Commissions antedated to give them Rank before the present Subaltern

Recom^d Sergeant Hughs for the Adjutancy

Take care also to acquaint the Gov^r [Dinwiddie] ab^t the bad Provisions at Fort Cumberland. that I apprehended M^r Walkers absence w^d occasion such

Acc^{ts} — that I caus^d M^r Walker to be informd of it that he may give necessary Directⁿ concern^g it as I conceive the Loss will fall upon him — There has been foul play us^d with it —

June 13th — Draughts. Not to receive any but what is fit for the Service. reject all that are old — Subject to Fits — and otherwise infirm.

Keep Copy's of all the Receipts given for the Men. take exact lists of their Names — Countys they Come from hight age complection &c^a so soon as they are receiv^d.

Give the Officer who receives them a Copy of the Act to govern himself by Dont let him give receipts either for Arms Cloaths or anything else unless order^d so by the Act.

The Gov^r. 25th [To Dinwiddie June 25th] I have not been able to send any Men to the S^o Ward, y^e Continual Alarms on this Quarter retarded it till y^e News of y^e French march^g with Artillery and then it was judg^d quite imprudent to draw Men from a post so much expos^d.

I have wrote twice to Col^o Stanwix ab^t Arms, but he takes no notice thereof in his Letters to me from whence I imagine he is not inclind to furnish us with any — We shall want Arms much.

Memmorandum of Sundry things to be done in Williamsburg if I go down in November —

Get my acc^{ts} with the Governor & Commit[tee] settled —

Lay the Indian Acc^{ts} before y^e Gov^r.

Get Copies of the Laws Martial —

Take the Committees advise in regard to Hamiltons acc^{ts}.

Try to have Cloathing sent for, for y^e Regiment.

Carry down the Drafts rec^{ts}.

Also Captⁿ M^cNeiles Indentures of Servants &c^a if it is necessary —

Most of y^e Militia have been furnishd with Provision's by y^e Regimental Com^y which has been a means of enhauncing his acc^{ts} thise matters sh^d be settled; y^e Militia w^d all have gone home had we not Supplied them their Officers hav^g no Money or Orders & y^e Country People refusing them Credit.

It appears that M^r Atkin has determind to prevent y^e Ind^{ns} from com^g to this Quarter —

Get some Tea — Hyson —

Endeavour to get some of the Stores in y^e Magazine at Williamsburg sent up here especially a Mortar & Bomb Granades — look into y^e Magazine & examine what things are there.

Is all the Parties of Ind^{ns} to be furnishd with Ammunition from y^e Publick Stores here.

Represent the Inconvenience of not keeping Goods constantly at this place to make occasional presents.

It is too late to provide Goods when there is immediate call for them —

Money also shoud be lodgd with y^e Director of these Affairs to answer y^e Exigencies accruing — No Person is fit to be intrusted with y^e Managem^t of Indⁿ Affairs who cannot be trusted with a little money

It is indispensably necessary that an Assembly shoud sit this Fall to concert Measures in time — to execute before the Season is to[o] far spent —

Unless an Assembly sits this Fall we shall not have time to prepare against the Spring — Waggon^s Horse^s &c^a nor shall we be able to Assemble a Body of Indians without w^{ch} Scarce any thing can be done

Unless Troops March out in y^e Spring there wont be one Inhabit. left in this County — the People hav[e] been perswaded to wait y^e Event of y^e Spring

If this County brakes y^e others will go (being much thinner settled) infinitely faster & then an Army can never be supported.

Lay Plummers Acc^t before y^e Country & Ex^e [i. e. examine] their Books & see if Plummer never was p^d thro Carlyle or Gist

Get a Blank Book for Acc^{ts} & an Almanack

Lay Lieut^t Bullets Claim for a Horse before y^e Country.

WASHINGTON'S RECIPE FOR MAKING BEER

To make Small Beer —

Take a large Siffer full of Bran Hops to your Taste. — Boil these 3 hours then strain out 30 Gall^{ns} into a Cooler put in 3 Gall^{ns} Molasses while the Beer is Scalding hot or rather draw the Melasses into the Cooler & St[r]ain the Beer on it while boiling Hot. let this stand till it is little more than Blood warm then put in a quart of Yea[s]t if the Weather is very Cold cover it over with a Blanket & let it Work in the Cooler 24 hours then put it into the Cask — leave the Bung open till it is almost don[e] Working — Bottle it that day Week it was Brewed.

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